

Historian's Office

No. 5

REPORT

OF THE

FIRST GENERAL FESTIVAL

OF THE

RENOWNED MORMON BATTALION,

WHICH CAME OFF ON

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 AND 7, 1855,

IN THE

SOCIAL HALL, G. S. L. CITY,

[REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.]

PRICE, FIFTY CENTS.

FOR SALE BY T. S. WILLIAMS, AT THE DESERT STORE, AND THE COMMITTEES
THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

PRINTED AT THE DESERT NEWS OFFICE.

1855.

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1855

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REPORT

Donated July 19.

By

OF THE

Richard & John Sessions

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MORMON BATTALION FESTIVAL.

MOTTO:

("The Mormon Battalion—A Ram in the thicket.")

MORMON BATTALION.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 1855, several members of the Mormon Battalion convened in the upper room of J. M. Horner & Co.'s Store, to devise ways and means to give a Ball and Supper to the members of the Battalion, under the sanction of Gov. Young.

On motion, Thomas S. Williams was chosen chairman of the meeting.

Resolved, that we will have a Ball and Supper on Feb. 6, 1855, in the Social Hall.

Resolved, that there be a committee of general arrangements, and corresponding committees in the several settlements throughout the Territory.

Resolved, that Thomas S. Williams, Elisha Averett, and D. B. Huntington, be the general committee of the Festival; and that Levi Hancock, Wm. B. Pace, and James Stewart, act for Utah county; Thomas Dunn and Joel Tyrrel for Weber county; John Hess, Lott Smith, and H. S. Dalton, for Davis county; W. Hyde, for Cottonwood; John Chase, for San Pete and Juab; Wilford Hudson, for Tooele, and Ira Willis and Ebenezer Brown for Lehi City and Draperville.

The several committees will immediately set about ascertaining the number of the members in the Battalion in the several districts; and the quantities and kinds of provisions and cash that can be furnished the general committee by Jan. 20, 1855. The several committees will take especial care to see that all wives of absent members and widows be invited, as it is intended to be a general invitation. We wish children, not actually in the Battalion, be left at home.

The committees will deliver all provisions by Feb. 1, without fail.

THOMAS S. WILLIAMS,
ELISHA AVERETT,
D. B. HUNTINGTON,

Committee of Arrangements.

D. CANDLELAND, Clerk, pro tem.

Agreeable to the foregoing arrangements, the first general festivities of the far-famed Mormon Battalion came off on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 6th and 7th, 1855, in the magnificent Social Hall, Great Salt Lake City. Meeting opened at 2 o'clock p. m.

Presidents Young, Kimball, and Grant, honored the Battalion

with their presence on the first evening, the which added greatly to the interest of the celebration.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DECORATIONS OF THE HALL, AS PREPARED
FOR THE OCCASION.

The upper room of the Hall presented a very delectable appearance, being tastefully ornamented with portraits of the First Presidency and Twelve Apostles, one picture hanging on each side of the Hall; also two most splendid paintings representing an English bouquet, &c. The west end likewise presented a beautiful appearance, neat and elegant pictures, of superior workmanship, with a large peer glass, superfine lace curtains; the upper part of the window frame being richly gilded, &c., &c. The very commodious stage was thrown open, and was well filled with ladies and gentlemen; the orchestra was occupied by our excellent musicians, who all played their parts exceedingly well. This room upon the whole was very suitably set off for the occasion, and reflects much credit on the taste of Mr. David Candland.

The lower room or basement story of the Hall was not a whit behind in its decorations. The southwest end was gracefully hung with flags and banners, the principal one was the flag of "municipality," and the eagle with his outspread wings of liberty standing over a beautifully painted serpentine line, holding the balanced scales with one claw, the word ORDER on the east, and JUSTICE on the west side of the flag, and the words GREAT SALT LAKE CITY running across the bottom. There was also a splendid flag having in the centre the "all-seeing eye," the "united hands," with the motto "Blessings follow Sacrifice;" below was an elegant description of the Mormon pioneers at the upper crossing of the Platte, on their way to the valleys of the mountains; some appear to be busy building a raft, others managing the Ferrying boat, and some two are engaged with a small skiff ferrying the people across the river; indeed, on this beautiful specimen of the fine arts, we are made to see the wagons, men on guard, and every thing which was then made, seems to have been snatched at sight by the artist's hand. On the north side was a small, but very neatly executed banner, having on the pleasing motto "Peace to the Stranger." The south side of the room was decorated with a great variety of ever-greens, small flags and banners, and among the many excellent mottos I noticed the following very appropriate ones: "Truth and Justice," "Union is strength."

At the east end was the star spangled banner of American

liberty, and close to that was another flag representing President Brigham Young's Court of Arms "The Lion and the Lamb." Down the centre of the room, and over the dining tables were set off in a most superb style with ever-greens, the flags of all nations, not forgetting the bee-hive state. The chandeliers were also tastefully decorated. There were likewise several charts exhibiting the fundamental principles of Phoneticism.

It being impossible to remember all the rich dainties served up to dinner and supper, I here insert the bill of fare in full:

BILL OF FARE.

MORMON BATTALION FESTIVAL.

MEATS.

Roast Beef,	Boiled Beef,
" Mutton,	" Mutton,
" Boned Turkey,	" Ham,
" Chicken,	Fried Steaks,
Fricassee " "	" Ham & Eggs.

Beef a la Mode.

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes,	Cabbage,	Parsnip,	Slaw.
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PASTRY.

Pound Cake,	Washington Cake,
Jelley " "	Deseret " "
Currant " "	Tipsey " "
Pyramid Pasties,	Sponge " "
Mince Pie,	Jelly Pie,
Tarts, Jelly,	Tarts, Currant,
Rice Pudding,	Plum Pudding,
Imperial Cream,	Colored Cream,
Blanc Mang,	Fancy Jellies.

DESSERTS.

Almonds,	Candy-Fancies,	Wine.
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DINNER

On the table at 6 o'clock p. m., precisely.

SUPPER

On the table at 12 p. m., precisely.

Father Pettegrew being called upon by the committee, came to the front of the stage, and said:

Fellow soldiers of the Mormon Battalion, and ladies, the

wives and daughters of those men who were offered a sacrifice for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. When the time had arrived for the Church to take its flight into the wilderness according to the predictions of the prophets, a demand was made by the Government of the United States for 500 able bodied men to go and fight for the rights of the people before whom they were fleeing. I say it was at the time when we were fleeing from the persecution, oppression and tyranny exercised against us in our own country, the land in which we were born. This order came at the very time we were escaping into the wilderness to seek protection and liberty among the rocky mountains of the western wilds. It was not long after the order came before we were on the march for the west to help the United States against Mexico, and I can assure you, brethren and sisters, that when I look at this lively assemblage and contrast it with the scenery I have passed through in 23 years' experience in this Church, and think of what has taken place, things past come to mind with such vivid clearness as though they were still before my eyes, and I have indeed cause to rejoice in the present scenery before me, and also in the anticipations of the future.

My father was a soldier and fought under Gen. Washington, and when a boy I heard nothing else scarcely but the accounts of the war, and my father's views respecting the prosperity, success, and triumph of those early warriors, and the liberty that was gained for all. I for years enjoyed many of the benefits of that liberty, until truth sprung out of the earth, and the light of new revelation dawned, then the liberty and freedom purchased by our fathers were taken from me and my brethren. Hundreds and thousands of acres of good land that we paid our money for has been taken from us by the wicked, while we, only some of the vast number of the robbed and plundered, escaped with our lives, and but little else. When therefore I look upon the scenery I have been through, and then behold so many of those men who were sick through fatigue, (for many of our noble band were sick on their way to Santa Fee,) when upon a long march, and being two or three days and nights without water, and the suffering and fatigue is only known to these my fellow soldiers. Although our hardships were numerous, I think there were only two of our brave men fell victims to the monster death. When I think of this I feel truly grateful to our God this day for his many blessings, and particularly to see so many of those generous hearted men who have offered their lives for the cause of Christ.

My brethren and fellow soldiers, I pray that you may be preserved long upon the earth, and that you may be held and sustained in the kingdom of God, and that you may all live to see Zion established and become the joy of the whole earth. I pray that this may be your lot, that your desires may be granted in all things, that you may see the glory of God rest upon Zion, and upon every dwelling place thereof. I feel that this time is at hand.

May God bless us all in coming together, that we may enjoy ourselves in his presence: amen.

Elder Pettegrew then offered a very appropriate prayer, invoking the blessing of Almighty God upon the proceedings, and upon all present.

Elder D. B. Huntington next addressed the meeting; he spoke as follows: I wish to have the brethren realize that the members of the Battalion who are here, are men who have been tried in almost every thing in life, and we have come together to enjoy ourselves, and not to dance after the fashion of the world. The gentiles have their way of dancing, but we do not want to adopt that, we should dance as did the ancients, before the Lord.

I will say to the brethren, I wish they would dispense with tobacco to-day; remember the ladies' dresses, and for one day deny yourselves.

To enjoy ourselves, we must have the Spirit of God in our midst, and for my part, I wish to see every one present enjoy themselves. My heart is here and I feel well. Let us all show to Bro. Brigham that we are the BOYS who are willing to lay down our lives for the cause of truth. May God bless us all during this festival and for evermore: amen.

Brother Thomas S. Williams arose and said: Ladies and brother soldiers; I will entertain you a few moments merely to explain the object of this party. It is necessary to say something in order to prevent any misunderstanding that might arise among the brethren, and I being the President of the committee of management, I consider this to be the right time, and the proper place to speak upon the subject.

On meeting in the capacity of a committee, we found it requisite to adopt such rules as would be best calculated to advance the interests of the party in every respect. We made rules respecting the various committees in the country bringing in what might be collected towards the party. We have done the best we could to make things as comfortable as possible, and we trust all

will be satisfied. We deem it necessary to state these things to you before proceeding further, and that there may be no clashing in feeling or opinion.

We have met here as brethren, in memory of the day that we met as soldiers to march in defence of our country. And I wish you all to feel and realize that this evening we are all equal, and not one above another, and therefore let us feel free, and make ourselves at home. We want to have all equal in their enjoyment; and we shall endeavor as far as possible to make all comfortable and happy.

We have our dinner tables and every thing arranged; but as we cannot accommodate all at one table, we hope those who may not be called to the first, will be satisfied to enjoy themselves in the dance until the tables are re-arranged, and all will be duly waited upon.

We have got a bill of fare printed, and placed one by every plate, so that every person may know at a glance what is being served up to dinner and supper. We have also supplied the tables with plenty of servants, and hence all will be waited upon in due season. It is hoped that all the soldiers present will consider the responsibility that is laid upon the committee, and that you will all be agreed to oblige each other as far as may be required, that there may be no cause or occasion for feelings of an unpleasant nature. You will go to the table according to the number of your tickets, beginning at number one; we therefore hope you will be patient, for we have plenty, and plenty of time. We have prepared for forty-eight hours, and therefore we desire that no gentleman will attempt to help himself, for we have provided waiters to attend upon all.

I was not here at the commencement of the proceedings, being detained with business at the store, but I understand that the floor committee has been appointed; and I will here say that we shall see that every person has his or her turn in the dance, for we mean all to have an equal share of dancing. For my part I would rather be excused from the duties of this committee; but inasmuch as I am chosen to act in connection with Averett and Huntington, I shall feel a pride in seeing the whole matter go off pretty respectably. I will now conclude my remarks, and return my sincere thanks to you all for your attention.

Six sets of cotillions were then formed, the music struck up sweetly, and one cotillion after another went off quite spiritedly untill 5 o'clock, when the house was called to order, and Presi-

dent J. M. Grant came to the front of the stage, and made the following remarks:

I see before me men, and I believe the principal part, if not all of you whom I now behold were in the renowned Mormon Battalion.

I have read many narratives of the valor of men, and the service they have rendered their country; but I here see a set of men that rendered service to their country not such service as was rendered by the men who first raised the ax to break up the wild timber and clear the ground for cultivation; neither do I see that class of men who labored and fought to remove the obstacles that once existed in the United States, but I see men that have stood in the defence of their country, under the most trying and heartrending circumstances that human beings could be placed in; men having families and friends to leave on the open prairie; and as our forefathers fought under Gen. Washington and saved the country, from the enemy, so did this Mormon Battalion save a large tract of land from being taken by an enemy, and they did more, they saved this people from being pounced upon by the militia of several states, for heartless villians had concocted plans to have all this people murdered while upon the western frontiers.

You will all remember that I went to Washington and visited our friend Col. Kane, and I know from what I there learned, that the Hon. Thomas Benton advocated the NECESSITY OF RAISING TROOPS AND CUTTING OFF ALL THE MORMONS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH. Notwithstanding you had rendered your services, and offered your names to go and serve your country in the war with Mexico, yet while you were doing this, one of the Senators, and one of the principal men in the Senate too, did endeavor to induce the Senate, the Cabinet, and the House of Representatives, to raise a force sufficiently strong to go out against the poor defenceless Mormon women and children who were left upon the wild prairie unprotected. Yes, Mr. T. Benton wanted to take troops and pounce upon your wives and children when upon the banks of the Missouri river, and sweep them out of existence. And when Col. Kane argued the case, and said, "supposing you cut off the men what shall be done with the women and children?" "O," said Benton, "if you argue the case, and wish to know what shall be done with the women, I say wipe them off too." "Well then," said Col. Kane, "what shall be done with the children?" "Why," said Benton, "cut them off, men, women, and child-

ren, for the earth ought to drink their blood;" and the feeling was so strong upon the question that it came within a little of magnatizing the whole nation. What should we have done if we could not have argued that we had 500 men upon the plains, engaged in the service of their country, and their wives and children left without protection. What, I say, would have been the consequence if we had not had this plea? Israel must have been put upon the altar. And if we could not have raised the compliment of men, what would have been the fate of this people? Israel must have been put in the tomb, unless by the interference of high heaven, a ram had been found in the thicket. Yes, brethren, had it not been for this Battalion, a horrible massacre would have taken place upon the banks of the Missouri river. Then, I say, notwithstanding your hardships, and the difficulties you passed through, you rendered service to the people of God, that will ever be remembered, and such service as will bring blessings upon your heads in time and in eternity. And if your friends fell by the wayside; and if any of you lost your families, your wives or your children, and you sustained the people of God, you can depend upon a reward for all that you suffered, for you are the sons of God. This is the real relationship of this Battalion to the Lord Almighty. Our motto is, to sustain the Constitution of the United States, and not abuse it; and we intend to live by it, and this is no CHIMERA as some of our enemies might be pleased to call it. You have done a good work, and I say, may God bless you all, and may you honor God as you have honored your country, and all will go well with you from this time henceforth.

When Isaac went to the altar, he was called a lad, and was 25 years old, (and some of you are not much older than that now,) he went cheerfully, because he knew it to be right; but he had no more of a task to perform than this Battalion, for you had to live upon what you could get: eat beast hides, blood and all; and you had to eat your mules, and walk over the scorching plains, and be days and nights without water. I would as leave have carried Isaac's barthen as yours. These things are remembered by all those who see and feel in the kingdom of God; but I am fully aware that many of those who are rather careless and wild do not realize the important service that you rendered on that memorable occasion. The barthen laid upon you was hard to bear, and it was harder than there was any need for it to be.

I wish I could speak better things of the great men of our country; but I tell you what I had from Col. Kane, in his father's own room, it is not some wild chimera, but it is the truth as I had

it from head quarters. They wanted to raise forces from Missouri and Illinois, and the authorities of the nation did advocate the doctrine of putting to death all the Mormons, and we know it.

We are friendly to our country, and when we speak of the flag of our Union, we love it, and we love the rights the constitution guarantees to every citizen. What did the prophet Joseph say? When the constitution shall be tottering, we shall be the people to save it from the hand of the foe. *of h - s.*

I have as much love and respect for the constitution ~~of 1786~~ as any other man, and I have as much right to the liberty and privileges it guarantees as any other man. Do I think as much of a federal country and government as I ought? I believe I have as much respect, and am as loyal as any other man, and I believe in giving the rights that are guaranteed by that constitution to all, not excepting the degenerated children of our forefathers.

Brethren, you have been called upon to defend, not only the Church of God, but your country; and you have many times been called upon to defend your leaders, and it is possible that you may be called upon again. You say that you had but little fighting to do, but that does not prove you never will have much to do. You may yet see the day when the interests of the Church of God will call you into the field of battle, and hence I say, brethren, be ready for whatever may come.

I have not come here to dance, nor to feast, but I have come to mingle my voice with yours, and to say, God bless you; and also to say, you are a good set of men, servants of the people of God. I came here to say, you deserve credit, and to offer you my thanks for your services in that Battalion.

I am glad to see that you have such a good set of women, and get as many more as you can, raise up lots of children, good boys, to form many more battalions. Isaac is ready! May God Almighty bless you, and peace and long life be with you, and many battalions grow out of you, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ I ask it: amen.

President H. C. Kimball then addressed the audience as follows:

Brethren, keep as still as you can; I suppose you ain't in a hurry are you? (The congregation all replied to the question in the negative.) I motion you stick to it till you get satisfied, if it takes the whole week. This world was not made in a day, neither will our victory be obtained in one day, but it will take many years, for it is a great work. Brethren, these are some of my feelings respecting you. You know I was one of the recruiting

officers; President Young and myself went round recruiting, so I consider myself one of the superior officers of this company; and I feel that I have considerable of a right here; in fact I felt that I could not stay away, and when I got here, you danced the spirit of the dance right into me, and then I could not do otherwise than dance with you, and I must say that I feel first rate in your midst.

You all know my feelings about you; I have not anything in my heart but the very best of feelings towards you; and there is not anything in the world causes my feelings to be roused sooner than to see any one take a course to put a stop to the influence of this people, either in one shape or another. I want to see you all honor yourselves, and make your priesthood honorable in the sight of high heaven. I wish to see you honor God and your calling as you did in the campaign when you went to California. I verily believe and know, that you did then, generally speaking, and I know that resulted in the salvation of this people, and had you not done this, we should not have been here. I also know another thing: when we went forth for volunteers, there was not a man, old or young, but what was ready to go, but could the United States have got you out unless we had spoken? You wanted to know our feelings, and then you were willing to go anywhere, and perform your duties as men of God, and your doing so under those circumstances will bring a curse upon this nation.

Is Tom Benton living yet? (Yes was the reply.) I feel to say in the name of Jesus Christ that he shall be literally and spiritually damned; and he ought to have been damned years ago, and why did we forget it? And may the same blessing rest upon all those who had the same mind, upon every man that had knowledge of our circumstances from this time forth.

All is right, brethren, we are living and doing first rate, and every situation and circumstance through which we have passed, has lifted us high above them, (our enemies,) not only in bringing us to the tops of the mountains, but in the things of the earth. We shall inhabit this earth when they will be in hell, and we shall inherit the mind of God and Jesus Christ, and all the riches of eternity; and if we remain faithful and should come into close quarters, the day will come when those who have sought our destruction, will be as chaff, for in that day will the armies of the Lord be as numerous as when seen by me and others the night that Joseph received the plates. I saw millions of them going southward, and they fought the last battle; I believe that they will come for our protection when the proper time comes.

You have done a good work, and I feel to bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; and your wives and children shall multiply and increase, and become more numerous than our enemies are at the present time. These are your blessings and the blessings of Zion's camp that went up to Missouri and saved their brethren from destruction, and you saved us from destruction by going into that Battalion.

I want to tell you gentlemen, that we'll have times and seasons yet, and you will be brought into closer quarters than you were on those occasions. I feel to warn you, and forewarn you of these things. Don't sell your guns, but if you have not got good ones, see and get them, and rub up your swords and be ready; but fear not, for the Lord will prepare a ram in the thicket, and he will save his people and overthrow the wicked, if it takes every one of those boys who were in Zion's camp and this Battalion too. Bro. Grant was in that company, and it was said in a revelation given to the prophet Joseph, that we then offered a sacrifice equal to that of Abraham offering up Isaac, and Isaac's blessing shall be upon you brethren. And as regards wives, you will have plenty of them; do not press the sisters too hard to have you, for the plurality of wives will become the most popular custom that is or will be in the world; for if the United States don't make it so, we will. The women do not like it very well, that is, speaking of the whole of them; but they will grow into it just as naturally as it is for water to run down hill.— They cannot help sustaining it now, it is beginning to be quite natural for the sisters to uphold it. Take these Mormon boys for instance, they are upholding it by going right into it, and I say, go ahead and prosper. These are some of my feelings, and I will say that I am happy to see you in such good spirits, and to see the good order you have, it reflects credit on you all.

I hope you will stay together till you are satisfied with your enjoyments, and myself and bro. Grant will sustain you, and do not for a moment get it into your hearts that we are anything but your friends, for we have the best of feelings towards you all. Our prayers are lifted up by day and by night in your behalf, and you will be blest indeed, every man and every woman. But every man that lifts his hand against you shall fall, and every nation, and President, and King that lift their heels against you and against this people, cannot prosper; but the curse of the Almighty will rest upon them. These are my views and feel-

ings upon that subject. May God bless you for ever and ever: amen.

Bro. Huntington said: I want the brethren and sisters to hear what I am about to say. Inasmuch as you will all take a course here to-night, to preserve good order, and be prayerful, you will enjoy yourselves as well again, and the spirit of the Lord will be with you, and it will be a heavenly time, as much so as in a meeting convened for the purpose of worship. Take this course and the music will sound much better and the Lord will be well pleased, and so will his angels, for they are here, and they love to see brethren dwell together in unity.

Dinner was announced at 6 o'clock p. m. Presidents Young, Kimball and Grant, sat down with the first table. There was a most delicious set out, and everything served up with that promptness and taste, for both which Mr. D. Candland is so justly renowned. The waiters, too, were attired in very appropriate and becoming uniform; and a more active and sprightly set of waiters I never saw.

While one portion of the assemblage were at dinner, the other participated in the dance, and vice versa until all shared like privileges, luxuries and blessings.

After dinner, President Brigham Young came upon the stage, and on beholding the company full of life and merriment, he exclaimed: "Well I declare, this beats all the parties I have ever seen here." He stood and watched the company then upon the floor go through a few figures, after which the house was called to order by the committee, when President Brigham Young made the following

REMARKS:

I intend to occupy your attention but a very short time.

I now behold a part of the men who left their wives, children, fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers, cattle, horses, and wagons, upon the wild prairie, in a wilderness, savage country, and took up their arms and marched forth to the defence, I would be glad to say, of our beloved, and happy Republic. The men now before me, (for I presume there are but few here who do not belong to the Battalion,) are men who have constantly had a goodly share of my faith, prayers, and sympathies from the time they volunteered to go into the service of the United States, at least as much as any other set of men who do, or ever did belong to this kingdom.

Some have imagined, as I have been informed, that the Bat-

talion was not looked upon with sufficient favor by the balance of the community. Owing to this misunderstanding I will take the liberty of expressing my feelings in part. Perhaps, in a few instances, there may have been remarks made about some members of the Battalion, from which it may have been inferred that there might be persons who rather lightly esteemed those who went into the service of the United States. I presume that some of these now present have this idea, and do not wish to be looked upon lightly by their brethren, but wish to be favorably considered by the saints.

At the departure of the Mormon Battalion I am sure that no set of men, or people ever had more faith exercised for them, unless the community they were in at the time had more faith than this people then had. Perhaps, also, there have been no people upon the face of the earth who, according to their knowledge, possessed more faith than did those very men when they left their families at the bluffs.

What gave rise to the brethren being called upon to go into the United States service? I will tell you some things about it. Suppose it had been shown to you that there were men in Washington, and influential men too, men who held control of the affairs of the nation to a great degree, who had plotted to massacre this people while on the frontiers in an Indian country, you would doubtless have gone to work to circumvent their plans; consequently, all we had to do was to beat them at their own game, which we did most successfully. I was, and am fully persuaded that a Senator from Missouri did actually apply for, and receive papers from President Polk, to call upon the militia of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, and if he wished more he had also authority to go to Kentucky and raise a force strong enough to wipe this people out of existence, provided that those men who had been driven from their homes should refuse to comply with the unjust demand upon us for troops. This circumstance you are all acquainted with, and I need not speak more about it. It was most thoroughly and incontrovertably proven that we were on hand, and that our loyalty was beyond question.

Doubtless the spirits who surrounded the Senator alluded to said that this people were hostile to the government, and the President gave him permission to call upon the Governors of the States I have mentioned, if we did not fill the tyrannical requisition for five hundred of our men, and get troops enough to march

against us, and massacre us all. Without doubt this was the decree in Washington, and I was moved upon to forestall it. As quick as this idea entered my mind it came to me, I will beat them at their own game. Did we not do it? I think we did.

The brethren who went with the Battalion went with as good hearts and spirits, according to the extent of their understanding, as ever men went upon missions in the world, and they manifested a readiness to do anything required of them.

I will say to you that, according to the best knowledge I have of you, the course and conduct of many were not justifiable before the Lord, and a knowledge of these facts caused me to weep. But you went upon your journey, were faithful to your officers, and faithful to the Government; and perhaps no other set of men, under the same circumstances, would have done better; and the character that you bear, amongst the officers whose opinion is of any value, is good.

I will briefly allude to Col. Doniphan. After his return, and in a party made by his friends in St. Louis, at which Mr. Benton was present, he made a speech, and in his remarks said, "I can take one thousand of the MORMON BOYS and do more efficient service against Mexico than you can with the whole American army." This I have been told by those who heard him make the assertion. That was his testimony, and I presume he gave it openly, and publicly. I suppose he felt like giving Benton a challenge, for he was always opposed to him in politics; but Benton was not disposed to say anything in reply to it, at least I have heard of no reply.

The Battalion went on and performed their duties, and fulfilled their mission; and every person, who has the spirit of revelation, can see that to all human appearance this people must have perished, had not these men gone into the service of their country. So far as human nature can discern, I say that these men now before me, were the saviors of this people, and did save them from carnage and death. I have always felt a special interest in their welfare, and the Lord knows it; and my feelings towards them have always been good, and I do not know that I ever thought of them, but that the feeling burst into my heart, "God bless them." I bless you now, and pray every good being to bless you, for I have always felt to bless you from morning till evening, and from evening till morning.

I see your motto there, "The Mormon Battalion, A ram in the thicket"! Yes, and well caught too. This Battalion made

every sacrifice required,—they offered their lives to save this people from the evils designed by their enemies. They did every thing that was required by the government of the United States, and I am sorry to say, that some few of them lost their lives in the service. I will tell you one thing, brethren and sisters, which is as true as that the Lord Almighty lives, if that Battalion had done as I told them in every particular, there would not a single man have fallen while in that service; I know that such would have been the result. Most of them did live, and acted well; but they had the world, the flesh, and the devil to contend with, and their circumstances were of a very peculiar nature. Some of the most heartrending and cutting scenes that men could pass through, this Battalion were called to endure, and hence it is no wonder to me that they should manifest their weaknesses in those trying times. On the contrary it would have been unprecedented if they had not, in some shape or other, manifested the weakness and frailty of human nature. Many of them are with us, some are in California, and some scattered to the nations of the earth to preach the gospel, and a few have died and gone to another sphere; but we ought to be thankful that so many are here to-day, to participate in the enjoyments of this festivity.

Brethren, you will be blessed, if you will live for those blessings which you have been taught to live for. The Mormon Battalion will be held in honorable remembrance to the latest generation, and I will prophesy that the children of those who have been in the army, in defence of their country, will grow up and bless their fathers for what they did at that time. And men and nations will yet rise up and bless the men who went in that Battalion. These are my feelings in brief, respecting the company of men known as the Mormon Battalion. When you consider the blessings that are laid up for you, will you not live for them? As the Lord lives, if you will but live up to your privileges you will never be forgotten, worlds without end, but you will be had in honorable remembrance for ever and ever.

We were accused of being of all people the most dangerous. We were said to be aliens from our government, and from the pure institutions of our country. But what are the facts? It has been currently stated that while the volunteers under Col. Stevens, and other troops from different parts of the Union were in California, United States Army officers had to seek protection at the hands of these my brethren against other United States Army officers who proved treacherous, and the Battalion continued

steadfast to their trust, and saved that region of country to the United States. These things they did most faithfully, and to the great benefit of our common country.

What is said about the treacherous? They could go back, mingle in society, drink and carouse, and it was all right. But the poor Mormon Battalion, the true friends of the country—the true patriots of liberty, had to seek a home in the mountains, and their services were but little thought of. Does this make you feel badly? No; their praise would be a shame, and their presence a disgrace to these Mormon Boys.

I have watched with interest the whole movements of this Mormon Battalion from the beginning, and I will now ask where is there in the whole United States, a more loyal and patriotic band of men? Where is there another set of men like them, anywhere outside this church? Others do not know what the principles of a free government are, or should be; but this people do comprehend them, and know what they are, or what they ought to be, therefore I shall not blame them so much as I should you were you to go astray.

Thank the Lord that you are here under such favorable circumstances as the present. I do not wish to detain you, and hope you will enjoy yourselves, though I am sorry to see you so crowded, but pleased to see you so good natured about it.

You are welcome to the use of this Hall; I do not know when the next party wish to occupy it; but if you are not through by the time others want it, I will tell them to wait, therefore take your time; and when you get through, you cannot get one cent into my hands for its use. If you have any money that you do not know what to do with, give it to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund to help the poor.

A few words more. It is said we have a new Governor, and many are wishing to know whether there is any truth in the report. All I know about it is simply this: I have been informed that Col. Steptoe received a letter from a friend in New Hampshire, stating that he is appointed Governor of Utah Territory. But what they have been doing in the States, and at Washington, to let the news go to New Hampshire, and come from there here before they could send the official intelligence, I cannot tell.

Newspapers that are publishing all the time about new Governors do so to feel the public pulse, and are employed, perhaps, for the purpose of testing public opinion upon the subject, and

to learn what effect it will have upon the mind of the general government, and the way the wind blows governs the minds of many; and as bro. George A. says, the head must first be on good terms with the belly, and must learn whether it wishes for beef steak and plumb pudding, or what it wants.

When I shall be removed I know not, and care not; but I know that no man can thwart the plans of the Almighty, for he will carry them out, and none can stay his hand. May God bless you: Amen.

Cotillions, French-fours, and Scotch-reels, went off with much harmony and spirit until nine o'clock p. m., at which time Capt. Ballo's excellent Brass Band, came and saluted the Battalion with their sweet music outside the Hall. They were invited in, and came and took their seats in the orchestra, and gave us "O Susannah, don't you cry for me," &c., after which, they retired to take dinner.

Several hornpipes were then danced in quite a masterly style by T. Richardson, F. Weaver, R. T. Sprague, K. Hanks, and C. T. Brunson. The audience was next entertained by bros. Geo. and Charles Hancock singing the Mormon bull fight.

Bro. Dennet also gave one on the death of bro. Wm. Smith, one of the Battalion boys who died at Ash Hollow, when en route for California. Other songs were also sung, after which, those ladies who were really in the Battalion were called upon to choose partners and dance. The wives and daughters of those men who fought for liberty were then requested to take the floor and go forth in the dance.

Mr. T. S. Williams said: I will call the attention of the house for a few moments. I am requested by the brethren of the committee, to state the necessity of those who have been invited, and have attended here to-day, not really in the Battalion, giving the preference to-morrow to those who live out of the city. Considering that we have been rather crowded to-day it is the wish of the brethren that those sisters who live here in the city, that do not belong to the Battalion, should stay at home and accommodate our country friends who have not the opportunities of attending parties that those have who reside at head quarters.—This is not from any unfriendly motive on our part, but you can all see we are crowded, and in fact, we did not anticipate so many being present. If we could accommodate our friends and connections, we should have much pleasure in doing it, but as we cannot we trust none will take exceptions or feel that we are reprehensible for pursuing this course.

The arrangements of the company that met in the Deseret Store were these:—that all the soldiers within the Territory should be invited, and that each man should be requested to bring his wife, or wives, as the case might be, but it was not expected that each and every man would invite his neighbors; but the idea was, that if a man had one, two or five wives he would bring them all. We perceive, however, that we have been crowded, and yet, notwithstanding the number present, we believe no one can find any great fault, at any rate we have done our best to make all comfortable, and we merely suggest this improvement for to-morrow, for your own benefit and comfort.

We published that we would dine at 6, and sup at 12 o'clock p. m., but in consequence of there being a greater number than we expected, we found it impossible to get through with both dinner and supper. We have fed 532 persons to-night; besides friends who came in rather late to see us, and it was impossible for the steward and cook to prepare supper in time, we have therefore concluded to dismiss till to-morrow at 2 o'clock p. m., and thus give the cook and steward time to rest and prepare for to-morrow; and if this meets your minds, and you will promise to bring none but you wives and daughters manifest it. Remember that I speak of the wives and daughters of those from the country more particularly, for those living in the city have plenty of opportunities of attending parties. There is a chance of joining in parties with the MINUTE MEN, POLICEMEN, LEGISLATIVE PARTIES, and many others. In view of this the committee did not think it right to give the same privilege to those residing in the city as they give to those from the country; but still, if this does not meet your minds, the committee are quite willing to meet with you, though there be twice the number. But inasmuch as it is expected that we shall conduct this festival for the comfort of all we have thought proper to suggest the above course.

Now, those who live in the city that are willing to carry out the suggestion of the committee, say aye. [The response to this call was simultaneous and unanimous.] Mr. Williams said he would go through the form of calling for contrary minds, although he believed all were one with the committee, and on being put to the test it was found to be so.

He continued, it is voted to meet to-morrow at 2 p. m., and before closing, we wish to extend the invitation to all the wives of the members of the Mormon Battalion who are absent on missions; likewise to all widows of the Battalion, we want them to-morrow night.

Capt. James Brown pronounced the benediction, and the company separated about 2 o'clock a. m., all full of animation, and freely expressing their full and entire satisfaction with the pleasures and enjoyments of the occasion.

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WEDNESDAY, Feb. 7th. 1855.

A little after 2 p. m., the house was called to order by the committee, who also requested Bishop Pettegrew, the Chaplain of the Battalion, to offer prayer.

The company were elated by the sweetness of the music, and readily partook of the spirit, and freely participated in the exercises and joys of the dance. The dancing through the afternoon went off briskly, the interstices being filled with songs, and recitations.

Dinner was served up at the appointed time, and what was said of the tasteful, elegant, and superior manner in which dinner was served yesterday, is quite approprio, and may be applied with equal force to what was done on Tuesday.

The Nauvoo Brass Band, under the direction of Capt. Smithies paid the Battalion a visit in the evening. They came upon the stage and played several times in a very superior style, to one of which they sung the chorus. The whole performance in fact, was of a charming character, being done in such a masterly manner. After the Band had dined, they were invited to choose partners and go forth in the dance. The invitation was accepted and for a short time our able musicians turned dancers, and to all appearance they enjoyed the dancing quite as well as blowing the French horn, Cornopean, Trumpet, &c.

Elder William Hyde was invited to make some remarks. He came forward and said: I am truly happy brethren, sisters, and fellow soldiers, to meet with you in this capacity. These are the best days of my life; I feel that we are a happy people. I have not language to express my feelings on this occasion.

My brethren around me feel that I with them, have made a free-will offering of all that was earthly, and of all that was near and dear unto me, and this offering for the salvation of the aged fathers, mothers, wives, and children of the Latter-day Saints, and in a temporal light, it seemed that we had sacrificed all.

At the time we were called upon to enlist in the service of our country, I was in a feeble state of health, and every natural feeling would say, bro. William, you are not fit to undertake

such a task; but yet the spirit would say, you must not withhold. We passed through it; the scenery was trying; and what emotions of gratitude would come up in our minds when reflecting upon the goodness of our heavenly Father. And ever since the day of our discharge, I have looked for a time like this—a day of enjoyment.

I have been separated from my brethren in Zion for a long time, thousands of miles of sea and land have lain between us, and I never forgot you there. You will be in my mind, and I shall be in yours, and we shall all reflect and speak of each other in the joy and gratitude of our souls in a time to come, for then, having overcome and proven valiant to the cause of God, (for I feel we shall be valiant, and be saved in the kingdom of our God,) we shall think of past times, of the day of trouble and hardships.

I say I have been looking for a day of this kind ever since we left the service, but it has seemed as though we never should have a chance of meeting altogether again. Sometimes a few have met, but now a large majority have the privilege of meeting to join in the dance, in the music, the feast, the song, and to mix and mingle our joy and rejoicing altogether, and have a good time. I cannot express the joy of my heart on this ever-to-be remembered day, for it is a glorious day to me.

It has been my lot to travel many thousands of miles, and I have been ready to give up many times, but the Battalion would come into my mind, and the thought would give me fresh courage, and my faith would increase, and the Almighty would bless and strengthen me, so that I would soon recover. And I know, brethren, that we were accepted in the course we pursued; I feel to rejoice in having the approbation of my brethren who stand at the head of affairs.

I have been thinking of a toast to-day which I will here give: President Young and all others who offered their faithful assistance in the day of trouble,—the recruiting officers of the Mormon Battalion; May they never want for a ram in the thicket. And if we should not live, may we have children to live and be as ready as we were at Council Bluffs to go forth in the defence of our country and our religion.

May God bless us and save us, and may we live to His glory while upon the earth, and throughout eternity: Amen.

The following toasts, composed by the committee and Mr. D. Candland were then read by the reporter:

TOASTS.

Col. Allen—A man worthy of our praise,—in every sense a man.

Capt. Hunt—We love to pledge him in the cup, and hope his cup of bliss may ever be full.

The Mormon Battalion and its officers.—In arms unconquered, by fatigues won laurels for themselves, and saved their brethren.

The Mormon Battalion—proud at all times, but more to-night because surrounded with wives, children, and friends in particular.

Lieut. G. W. Oman.—We wish we COULD, but we CAN'T.

G. P. Dykes—We'll let him pass.

Lieut. Stoneman, Quartermaster.—Our arms are quatered with him.

P. C. Merrill and our absent comrades.—We wished them here. Long may they live and be always numbered in this glorious corps.

The wives and children of the Battalion.—Don't we love them? try us.

Capt. Davis.—He slumbers as a soldier should, and will rise as one; let him alone in his glory.

Col. Fremont.—A cipher once—now, and for ever more: Amen.

Col. Cook.—The man that dare praise us among friends and foes; we will cherish his memory forever.

Gen. Kearney.—Last not least, though sleeping in the silent tomb; his name is held in grateful remembrance.

The three recruiting officers of the Mormon Battalion—Presidents Young, Kimball and Richards. Whenever they call for recruits again, the Mormon Battalion and their wives will respond, right about face—quick march!

Capt. Brown.—Ever foremost to relieve the soldiers, to legislate for citizens, and to defend the homes of his wives, children and friends.

Gov. Young—the bumber of bumpers. May he ever bump his enemies and bumper his friends, and the Mormon Battalion will help him.

Capt. James Brown came to the front of the Orchestra and said: Brethren, sisters and fellow soldiers, as has been remarked by bro. Wm. Hyde, this is one of the happiest days I have had since I enlisted in the Mormon Battalion; and I have not lan-

guage to express the feelings of my mind, in meeting with the Battalion on this occasion. When I look at this happy company and contrast the present scene with those we witnessed when we left Council Bluffs, Fort Leavenworth, Santa Fee, and from there to California, and on to this city, it fills my heart with gratitude to God. And I can say that the time has come, notwithstanding the trials and the scenery around looked gloomy then, yet the time has come for the Lord to favor Zion. We have in a measure extricated ourselves from our enemies, and thank God for it. When we were in trouble, the Lord extended his mercies to us, and we had cause to rejoice, and now are free from the claws of those who were our oppressors, and this is through obedience to those whom God has set in his kingdom to govern and regulate all things for our eternal welfare. Let us rejoice, and officers and all be ready to go forth in defence of the principles of righteousness; for as was stated yesterday, we have been the means of redeeming our brethren, and our sacrifice is tantamount to that of Abraham offering up Isaac. The members of this battalion left their wives and children, their friends and everything that was near and dear to them upon this earth, excepting only the counsel received from the authorities of this Church, and that they went to fulfil.

I do not suppose that there is an individual in the Battalion, who, had he been left to his own thoughts and feelings, independent of counsel, I say, I do not suppose one would have volunteered, had it not been for the counsel of those men whom God had given power to counsel. I would have felt very reluctant under the circumstances had it not been for the counsel of my brethren whom God authorized to dictate in the affairs of his kingdom.

We have accomplished the work required of us, redeemed our brethren, and helped to place the Church in the valleys of the mountains, where the kingdom of God will roll forth with mighty power, and it shall fill the whole earth. Brethren, these are some of my reflections; and I consider this Battalion in its going forth at the command of God through his servants who promised us if we would enlist and do right, we should come out as we have done; and were we called upon again, I feel that blessings would follow us, and we should come out right. This is my faith in relation to that. Brethren, what shall we do, this is the first opportunity we have had of meeting together since we left Santa Fee, and went some to one place and some to another;

when, I say, shall we have the privilege to meet again? I say, when the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints shall call upon the Battalion to stir up their friendship, and go and enjoy themselves; I say that will be the time. We shall know by the Battalion gathering all together, who have got the spirit of revenge, to avenge the blood of prophets shed in Carthage jail, and we will do it, or swear our children to never rest, nor give up till the blood of the prophets is avenged upon those that dwell upon the earth.

The Mormon Battalion will be the means of redeeming Zion in the last days, where the house of the Lord shall be built. Let us be faithful, if we are not always together, and God will pour out his blessings upon us, and if we do not meet in the valleys of the mountains, we shall see each other in the morning of the first resurrection.

God bless you and I bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, and the blessings shall rest upon you and your children to the latest generation: amen.

The following toasts were then given:

Here's to old Tom Benton.—May he be as spiritually damned as he is politically.—T. S. Williams.

Geo. W. Oman—A bad omen!—W. Muir.

Lieut. Clark.—May he and his posterity live to tan leather to shoe the boys within their campaigns. [A loud amen from the audience followed each of the above toasts.]

Chaplain Pettegrew arose and said: Officers and fellow soldiers of the Mormon Battalion, and wives, daughters, and sisters present, I feel grateful to our Father and God, for the blessing of being here, and for the spirit of peace and union that are here; all these bespeak the goodness of our heavenly Father.

I do not think I could have been persuaded to stay so late with any other crowd, but the connection and acquaintance that we formed when in the service can never be blotted out. Will any of these men be lost? Will not the deeds of these men, who sacrificed all for their country and their religion, be thought of by the Almighty? I say, the deeds they have done will be remembered for ever and ever by the Lord God Almighty and his ministering servants.

Did the ancient prophets behold the scenery and trials of this last dispensation? Did they see in their visions the sacrifices this people would be called upon to make? I will tell you what I heard

the prophet Joseph say in 1842; he said that we should have to take our arms and go into the service of the United States. But this was forgotten by me, and I presume by others too, until we returned from California and got to this place. I now remember it well, the Spirit of the Lord God was upon him, and he spoke of the brethren having their endowments, and showed what the Church would have to pass through; and I well remember the peculiar feelings I had at that time.

Brethren, I know that we are a peculiar people, and we are considered so by the world, and it seems to me that the prophet Joseph pointed to the place where the Mormon Battalion should become as two wings of a great eagle. These are close times that we live in, and we require to be wide awake. The Lord God has been with us, and will continue to uphold and assist us inasmuch as we act wisely. We shall have more rugged scenes to pass through; let us therefore remember that the God of Israel said that all flesh is in his hand, and it is his hand that has led us all the time. He did not counsel with the great and the mighty when He opened up this last dispensation, neither did He choose to appoint any great man to bear His name to the nations of the earth, but his angel descended to the prophet Joseph and unfolded the hidden things of eternity to his youthful mind.

Joseph Smith was taught heavenly things, and God was with him, and all hell was after him, but his life was preserved until he had accomplished his work. He laid the foundation of the greatest work ever committed to man upon the earth, and the work will continue to roll until the entire overthrow of all wickedness, and iniquity is rooted out of the earth, and everything that is abominable and corrupt will be overturned, and the Lord will shield his people if He must needs do it by fire. When we view things in this light, we have nothing to do but perform our duties before God, and we shall come off victorious.

I feel to bless you, brethren, and may the blessings of long life, and health, peace and prosperity abide with you, and may your arm be strong in the presence of the mighty God of Jacob; and may you be the means of bringing about much restoration to the house of Israel. The redemption of Zion is close at hand; therefore do not fear.

The toast master read the following toasts, which stirred up the spirit of enthusiastic approbation among the delighted guests present:

The Mormon Battalion.—May they steadily discipline and qualify themselves for future campaigns.—H. S.

The Mormon Battalion.—May they and their posterity be like wheat sown in a good soil, in each generation bring forth a hundred fold.—Wm. H. Carpenter.

The Mormon Battalion.—The proper representatives of the true and genuine defenders of the Constitution of the United States: may they ever be found as true to their God and his servants as they have proven themselves to be to their country.—G. W. T.

May the old ram live till he has a flock of young rams prepared for the thicket, and then enter the fold and dwell with the lion of the west on the mountains of Ephraim for ever.—William S. Muir.

Lieut. Clark said: I wish to relate a circumstance that transpired when the Battalion were about leaving for California. A lady who belonged to the Battalion was in conversation with another lady, and when interrogated about her husband going to California, and asked how she felt, the reply was, that she would rather be a soldier's widow than a coward's wife. My toast is, may this spirit be in all the wives of the Mormon Battalion.

My heart is filled with joy and rejoicing on this festive occasion, and I feel the same spirit that has rested upon me from time to time since we left the service. I have many times looked forth to the day when we could meet together and see better times, when we should see our brethren in peace, and of which we have a small sample to-night. My faith is that the time will come when this Battalion will become as numerous as the sand upon the sea-shore. And I pray that we may ever feel the spirit that will prompt us to act whenever called upon in the defence of our country. Brethren, may the Almighty bless and save us all in his everlasting kingdom: amen.

Lieut. Thompson said: With peculiar feelings I rise to make a few remarks. I am very grateful for this privilege of meeting with my brethren. I am one of those who helped to lift out the wagons when almost embedded on the sandy plains, and my spirit is glad within me when I think of the privileges we enjoy as a people in this lovely valley, and I hope we may live still further to rejoice together. My prayer is that we may live to see each others' face again and enjoy ourselves as we are doing here, and as we did on the plains.

D. B. Huntington said: I feel like saying a word or two, although I am sensible that I have not language at command, whereby to express my feelings. It does my heart good to see

such an assembly as this, and it seems to me that there never was such a spirit of faith and good feeling among this body of men as at the present time, and this is only the commencement, and this festival will long be remembered in the hearts of this people, and it will be regarded as an item of important history in this kingdom.

It is indeed a pleasing thought with me that there has not been a word of jarring in the whole of our proceedings in this festival.

I wish to say a few words for the benefit of all, respecting trials. I feel to say every one will have as hard a time of trial as any of these my brethren had when we shook hands with our wives, and bid farewell. I and my wife never saw a darker day; she said to me, Dinick, I fear I shall never see you again. I laid my hands upon her head and blessed her in the name of the Lord, and told her we would live to see each other again, and spend many happy years together.

Brother Brigham and bro. Heber asked me to go, and if they had told me that I should not return any more, I do not think I should have felt it any more than I felt that trial. Probably you may have to make as great a sacrifice within a few years to come.

Brethren read the Book of Mormon, for nothing will make a man feel more deeply than to leave his family under those trying circumstances, and by reading that Book you will get comfort by referring to the trials of the ancients. There is not a man here but will be tried in one way or another, therefore be faithful for not many will stand the trying day, but never let it be said that one of this noble band has fallen through transgression. There are a few that go into error like G. P. Dykes, and that will not do right. Bro. Dykes has gone into error and is damned; he has the curse of his Brethren upon him for his follies and misdoings.

As for Fremont, I wish he was a thousand feet under ground, and that it might take a thousand years to dig him up.

Br. Tibbits observed, I never expect to see a day when I shall feel worse than when I left my family at Winter Quarters. If I had known where I was going, and the trials I would have to pass through and endure, I could not have felt worse.

My toast is, may every one of the Mormon boys become the father of a great kingdom, and every wife a mother. Sisters, hear it!

Capt. Brown remarked,—I never felt better in my life:

Here's to all oppressors of the Mormon Battalion, may they wither as the leek, and be carried by the devil, and become servants to the Battalion and their children to the latest generation.

Thomas S. Williams said: Fellow soldiers, I will take the liberty of detaining you a short time. I have never experienced a happier time in my life than within the last forty-eight hours. I do not know where to begin to unbosom my thoughts and feelings on the present delightful occasion: but brethren, I am one with you, in heart, mind, and soul, and in everything else in this kingdom. I can say with those who have spoken, that a more gloomy day nor time never surrounded me than when we took our line of march. Though I have been in prison and suffered considerably, but never was the day so dark with me as the one above named. I was a mere boy as many others were, from sixteen to twenty-five years of age, when we enlisted in the service of the United State. I started as a private soldier, and when we raised the liberty pole I had but a yoke of oxen, and an old wagon. My wife and children I left with only about five days provisions, and not having the least idea where they would get the next. The day following I ascertained that bro. Higgins was going to fetch his wife and family. I therefore determined that if we could raise means any way I would take my wife with me, and I made up my mind to do it if I had to tramp all the way and carry my napsack. I was there a private soldier, without a dime in the world, but the blessings of prosperity and peace had been pronounced upon the Mormon Battallion, and I of course knew that it was right for me to take care of my family, and hence I determined to take them with me. I am proud to say, that I have my wife and daughters and sons here this evening.

What could be more gratifying than what we enjoyed of the blessings of heaven while passing through those trying scenes? It would be impossible, and therefore it is useless to attempt a description of what we passed through; for never since the days of Adam did a set of men, and I may say perhaps never will live and pass through such a scenery as we did in that Battalion; leaving our wives and children to the care of him who careth for all, out upon the broad plains, and nothing to preserve them from the cold bleaching winds; they were in care of their heavenly Father. But brethren, what was their faith and confidence in God? They had a promise from our leader that

he would protect them, and they were satisfied that all would be well.

After all this we are assembled together among the mountains, to worship our God, and do that which our consciences teach us is right in the sight of high heaven.

I wish now to leave this subject and take up another. Some may feel that it is curious that there should be groans given for certain persons. I wish to say that the object of this party was to give each and every one a chance of expressing their feelings; we consider that when we volunteered we were men that would say to each other, be good, and officers, be merciful, and we now intend to show that men who have been placed over us, and have violated their trust, and in a very material manner molested and oppressed us, that we are now free, and here is the place, and the time for us to manifest our contempt. They thought they could crush us by crossing our hands over a bundle of muskets; but thank God we have accomplished all that was required of us, and now that we are free, let our prayers ascend that those who oppressed us may welter in hell until they have atoned for that.— [The audience responded by three loud amens.] Brethren, let us all rub up our muskets and swords, according to counsel.

Let us now set an example here so that those who may be our leaders, (for it appears that we have more to do yet,) in future may see that they will share the same fate as those who have in by-gone days, taken such an undue and unwarrantable course. I would to God that things were different from what they are, but that ambitious and tyrannical spirit which those men cultivated, when clothed upon with a little brief authority has been their own ruin, and led them to destruction.

I feel that I would like to know and have it decided when the Mormon Battalion shall meet and again rejoice together. This seems to be the feeling of the brethren present. I suggest that it shall be a year from last night, and that so long as there is a Mormon, who belonged to the Battalion, or his children, or children's children down to the latest generation, a yearly festival be held in commemoration of the doings of the Mormon Battalion. [The company with one voice responded amen!] I say that we have suffered enough to justify this, and I never want to go through the same again, neither do I wish to live and enjoy myself with any other people, saving you or those who are just like you in faith and in spirit. Brethren, I could go on and talk an hour longer, but there are many others who desire to have the

privilege of speaking, and I wish them to have it if it takes till to-morrow 12 o'clock. May the blessings of kind heaven rest upon you for evermore: amen.

The company were next entertained with songs, music, dancing, and the following toasts:

The Mormon Battalion.—May the offspring of peace around them gather, and the wings of love never lose a feather.—G. Hancock.

The Mormon Battalion.—May they all live to see the principles of right triumph over the evils of gentile might; and may they increase and multiply in wives, children, and friends, until all wickedness is destroyed, the reign of righteousness brought in, thence forward and for evermore.—J. V. Long.

May the good works of the Mormon Battalion ever continue to be as bread upon the waters, to be found after many days.—J. E. Forsgreen.

Here's to the Mormon Battalion on Missions; may they return having fulfilled all the commandments given them, as honorably as they did in the Battalion.—T. S. Williams.

The Mormon Battalion.—May God give them many wives, and children without number, and to the increase of their kingdoms may there be no end.—Sister King.

The offsprings of the Mormon Battalion; may they prove to be chips off the old block.—Sergeant major Glines.

Mr. David Wilkin said: If I should undertake to express my feelings this evening, I should make a complete failure; for I feel far more than I can express. I am full of pleasure and delight when I look upon so many with whom I had the honor of walking, with the napsack and musket. I say that a braver set of men never lived, and thank heaven that we live and enjoy what the United States by its liberal constitution has bequeathed to us. We are the living monuments of our Father's mercy; He has made us to participate in the rich blessings of his kingdom, and may he prolong our lives to a good old age. I did not think of occupying two minutes when I got up here, for I know my brethren's hearts are full to overflowing, and I feel assured that if a vote was called, every one would readily manifest their full and entire satisfaction with the enjoyments of this festival.—Brethren, while I look upon those countenances before me I feel to rejoice in the joy and pleasure that seem to beam forth from them; I contrast the scenery with the past and compare it with what we have previously experienced.

The motto before us—the richest gem that we can transmit to our children and children's children. This people appreciate the sacrifice and offering of the “ram in the thicket.” Ancient Israel had their paschal lamb, and so have modern Israel. Lambs made peace offerings in ancient times, but it will require rams to make an offering for sin in the last days.

Mr. J. M. King was then called upon to make a few remarks; he said: I can say brethren, that it is with peculiar feelings that I arise before you this evening. I do not expect that I will be able to express one hundredth part of my feelings, but I can say that the two last days have been the happiest I ever spent upon the earth, and as has been said by others respecting the time when we parted, I also felt it to be a trying time. I left my wife and family at Pisgah, one of the sickliest parts in that district of country, and it was indeed a trying time to me. I can truly say that I feel to rejoice in the present company, in the society of my brethren and sisters. I have longed for this kind of a party for some time, and now I rejoice in the privilege.

It was my lot to return to the States and tarry there four years before I could get to this place again, but I now rejoice that I have the privilege of being with those who have waded through “thick and thin.” I pray God to give us grace and strength to act as firmly and as well as we did in days gone by.

I have proved the leaders of this kingdom to be prophets of the most high God, and I am ready to support and uphold them. I well remember the evening that bro. Brigham called for recruits, and I also recollect that he promised inasmuch as we would go forth and do the best we could we should live to enjoy their society again, and I feel to rejoice that we have the opportunity of realizing a fulfilment of the promise.

I have told you that I lived in Pisgah, and although it is a very sickly country, I lived through it and am now alive and well, and I pray God to keep and preserve us faithful to the authorities of this kingdom, and then we shall gain the victory over all that is evil. I pray God to strengthen and prepare us for the things of the future, for I am sensible that the things of the future are greater than we can imagine. We have yet trials to encounter, and hence I feel that it is necessary to prepare for all the changes of future life. I feel that were it not for two or three things, I would just as leave pass from this state of existence; but considering what has to be done, I have a desire to live and help to do it. I wish this Battalion may live to

grow into a multitude in the world, and be ever ready to do the will of our heavenly Father in all things. I pray God to bless us all in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

T. S. Williams said: I wish to qualify one of my remarks which I made respecting the officers of the Battalion. I will give the names of those I referred to: Lieut. Dykes and Lieut. Oman.— These two were the ones alluded in my remarks.

Timothy Hoit then came forward and holding up his hands, said: These were the only hands that were tied by G. W. Oman, and the only reason why I was arrested was because he called upon me to fetch a little pork, and I enquired if he would not wait till I had finished my supper; he seemed to be very bad tempered, and I again asked if he would not wait a moment, and he immediately turned round to Sergeant Allred and said, put that d—n s—n of a b—h under guard. The Sergeant replied that he had been freed from such duties, and hence he would not do it. And I thank God that we are free from such tyrants, and I pray God that we may live to fulfil the words of the prophets.

Bro. Huntington remarked: They are dead and damned, and hence I feel to say, let them alone.

William Muir said: I wish to bear my testimony to a few facts in relation to our history. President Young said he would promise that if we would go and do right we should never have a ball shot at us by the enemy we were going against. When we went into Santa Fee we were well received by the Mexicans and the United States officers, and when we entered Sonora we were likewise well received by all. On going into California the people were really afraid of us, for Fremont was taken prisoner, and the people were excited and did not know what to think of us going in at that time. And my testimony is, that if we prove faithful it will be so in every case from henceforth and forever; for the Lord will provide a ram in the thicket to save us from the sword and from the din of war; I feel satisfied of this, and therefore I am willing to do all I can for the defence of this cause.

David Garner said: I feel thankful for this opportunity of meeting with you. I have not had such a happy time in my life as this. I will sing a few verses to cheer up your hearts. Mr. Garner then sung "Come, come away" with much spirit and energy.

A great number of toasts were then given touching various

persons and subjects, and from them we have selected the following:

The Mormon Battalion,—May they long live upon the earth, and see the time when their enemies will be trampled down, and in days to come, may our posterity ever be ready to defend this cause; may a ram always be found in the thicket, and may the little stone cut from the mountains roll forth and fill the whole earth.—Mr. Layton.

Here's hoping that old Dr. Sanderson's profession in the future state may be giving Calomel to our enemies in hell: Amen.—T. S. Williams.

Here's to the Mormon ram,—May he continue to ram until he rams all tyrants and mobocrats to hell: Amen.—Charles Hancock.

Here's hoping that the Mormon Battalion wives may have in their arms what they most love in their hearts.—Mr. Jones.

Mr. Murphy said: I wish to present one of the blest of the Mormon Battalion before you. There are but a very few that know me now I presume, owing to the great change that has taken place in me since we were in the service of the United States, for there is now more health and strength and nerve in me than there was at that time, or ever was before. You all know that I was a poor hump-backed, peaky-faced, long, scrawny kind of a man, and when we were about to leave the Bluffs, I was told that I should never see California, but thank God I have been and returned, and am now full of life and spirit, and I feel that I am one of the blest of the Lord in every respect. I say may all the enemies of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, who shall afflict, or in any way operate against this people, ever find a fool-killer in their midst.

D. B. Huntington arose and said: I beg to introduce to your notice Capt. Fool-killer; you have perhaps heard of him before. This is the gentleman. [The company then enjoyed a hearty laugh.

Mr. Tibbitts next addressed the company. He rejoiced in the pleasures of the festival, and often thought of what the brave men of the Battalion had endured. He spoke of bro. and sister Williams' boy being raised up from sickness by the power of God. When he went in the service of the United States he was supposed to be in a consumption; at that time he only weighed 123 pounds, but after traveling and passing through trials for 9 months with the Battalion he weighed upwards of 150 pounds.

Mr. Tibbits' remarks were rather lengthy, and being desirous to insert, as far as possible in the small limits of 40 pages, a speech from each of the speakers, we are under the necessity of curtailing his observations to make room for other matter; we have, however, allowed space for the main gist of his arguments and remarks.

Mr. John Hess said: There is a feeling within me that I cannot express, but it has got my coat off. I feel to rejoice in so much that I cannot find language to express the feeling of gratitude in my heart. I am thankful for what I enjoy from the hands of our heavenly Father. Could this feeling be bought? No, money would not begin to buy what I enjoy were it possible to sell it.

We have felt and experienced during this festival, (saying nothing of what we have passed through in days gone by,) that the Lord is with us by his power to protect us and do us good. It is true, it was not always pleasant to have to pass through those trials, but all was for our good, and will be in the future, therefore let us be determined never to flinch so long as there is a button to the coat. I say I have rejoiced beyond anything that I could express while in the society of my brethren and I do hope that this will not be the last time that we, the members of this Battalion, will have to mingle together.

Singing and dancing were then freely indulged in, a spirit of hilarity, order and peace governing and controlling the whole proceedings. The house was next called to order, when Mr. Levi Hanks came forward and made the following remarks, speaking with much spirit and energy:

Brethren and sisters,—it would be in vain for me to undertake to express my feelings on this occasion, but suffice it to say, that every one that have spoken have expressed portions of the feelings of my heart. I want to bear testimony to one saying that has been thrown out here, viz: that the President promised this Battalion, that inasmuch as they would go forth and do right there should not be a ball shot at them; and I can say for one, that I realize the truth of that saying; I have experienced it—I have seen those words fulfilled and that promise verified to the very letter, when placed in the midst of my enemies with nothing but these little MALLETS to defend myself with, (the speaker here exhibited his fists,) and they were well armed with bows and arrows, knives and rifles, but they burnt the priming, the powder flashing in the pan, and not a gun went off, and their arrows

broke. By and bye they became satisfied that their guns would not go, and they dropped them, and took up their arrows and began to shoot, but not an arrow would fly towards me, and I came off unhurt. When I left Iowa I never thought of such manifestations of the goodness of God.

When Brigham Young said he wanted us to go I put my name down to go for one, and the Indians did not kill me. I had to leave my family at the Bluffs, my wife in a very weakly state of health. I had five children, and the oldest went with me to California, and he is now in Sacramento city. On my return I brought my wife and was coming to this place, and she got killed at Ash Hollow, in the stampede, and her body is laid by the road side. I wish to make honorable mention of her, for she was a noble woman. The rest of my family are here and rejoicing in the truth, and I feel thankful for the blessings that have attended me; and I feel to wish I may ever pour out my soul to God for a continuance of His blessings. And I do not wish my services in that Battalion to be the last good deed of my life; I want to be ready, and to be on hand come what will.

D. B. Huntington said: Brethren and sisters, I feel that the spirit of the Lord is here; we have a first rate time, and I feel like dancing.

Mr. P. Wright made a few remarks and also drank a toast for Dr. Sanderson; after which T. S. Williams said:

I had to send a detachment of men with the sick to the doctor's tent; they had to carry them in blankets and lay them down on the ground, and the Dr. would simply look at them, and then order their medicine, and he had only the one OLD IRON SPOON, and perhaps there had to be 15 or 20 different kinds of medicine administered to as many different persons; and while he is in hell administering Calomel to our enemies, may he have nothing but the old iron spoon to eat with.

T. S. Williams said, I just wish to give one for old mustache Smith. May his mustache grow till his feet is entangled and he hanged in his own hair.

Gen. Deniphan who received us in honor, may he ever be remembered in the prayers of all the Mormon battalion.—T. S. Williams.

P. C. Merrill and the absent members of the Battalion—three cheers for their wives and children.—(Doubtful who gave this.)

Here's to the men who carried news from Santa Fee disrespectful of the Mormon battalion,—may they suffer on earth till compelled to repent of their evil doings.—The Committee.

The Committee then made some remarks on the desirability of keeping up a yearly festival, so long as there shall be a member of the Battalion left in these mountains.

Mr. Kiser next made a few remarks, which were followed by several toasts. We select the following from them:—

Here's to the three great generals: general health, general plenty, and general satisfaction!—C. Hancock.

May the Mormon Battalion boys ever be as true to their President as he has been true to them, and cheer his heart as he has cheered theirs.—William Gribble.

Hoping we may be always on hand; I can walk as well as ever.—Daniel Henry.

Here's hoping that not one member of this Battalion may ever suffer a Mormon soldier's wife to see want while he is on a mission.—The Committee.

May brother Williams' daughter that was born in the service, live to become a mother in Israel.—Uncertain, the reporter did not hear the name.

Success to the Mormon Battalion—may they live long, and ever have corn in the big crib, money in the pocket, children in the cradle, and pretty wives to rock them; coffee in the closet, sugar in the barrel: may they live in union and never quarrel.—James Davis.

May President Polk ever want a cloak, and always wear a yoke with a poke.—L. Clark.

The Mormon Battalion—One noble band of brethren; truth and liberty is their motto.—John P. Wriston.

T. S. Williams said, we have had a good deal of mirth, and will now have a sentimental song from br. Hall, one of our active policemen. Br. Hall then sang, "Joseph Smith and Hyrum."

It was moved that br. Hall, and Dr. Sprague, the Hall steward, have the floor and dance till they get ready to go home.

It is just to say of our policemen, Thomas Hall and William Derr, that they were very diligent in keeping order at the door, and in the lower part of the hall.

The five drummers, and five fifers, musicians of the Mormon Battalion—May they live to cheer the hearts of all the righteous, with the sweetness of their angelic performances thro' time and a never ending eternity. May they live the lives of the righteous, become competent performers to join the band of Enoch, and play "here's in memory of the Mormon Battalion,"

who saved Israel in the 19th century. May they drum and fife in heaven!—Justus Earl.

Here's to my messmate and the rest of my brethren—We have many times prayed together for God to protect us, our wives and children too; pray on, brethren, the victory is ours.—Thomas Ivy.

Remarks were then made by A. Napp, and Thomas Wier, and toasts were given by C. B. Hancock, sister King, Joseph Taylor and several others, which for want of more space we are obliged to omit.

Mr. T. S. Williams said he wished the company to manifest their thanks to Mr. D. Candland, and all those who have waited upon us during this festival. Also to Dr. Sprague, who has attended as steward of the hall; and that we return our most sincere thanks to them by all saying aye; unanimous.

Mr. Williams made some remarks on the manner in which the Festival had been got up, and assured the company that the committee had done their best to accommodate all; and also stated that upwards of 450 had dined that evening; making about 1000 who had been fed during the festival, at a cost of over \$1300.00. He continued, tho' a young man, I have traveled a good deal in my life, but I must say that I have never seen in any festival such harmony and good order as we have had during this festive occasion, and I feel to render my sincere thanks to all for their good spirit and the order they have kept. I feel also to say that the committee will be most happy to serve their brethren on any future occasion; and if it would meet the minds of the President and brethren, I presume we will meet again in twelve months from this time. All those who are in favor of having another festival in one year from yesterday, the 6th of February, say aye. Carried unanimously.

Just another toast. The Fiddlers—a useful, intelligent set of stringers; may they live to string away, and serve the Battalion on many future occasions. Their music is cheering; its sweetness endearing; may they prosper and succeed forevermore.—Justus Earl.

The wives of P. C. Merrill, James Ferguson, Haden W. Church, Elam Ludington, William Walker, Oliver Workman, Edward Martin, Jesse Martin, Edward Bunker, and N. V. Jones, were present and participated freely in the enjoyments of the occasion.

About 5 o'clock, a.m., the house was called to order, and after

some few remarks by the committee, benediction was pronounced by the chaplain of the Battalion, and the cheerful, happy throng repaired to their homes without a jar or the slightest discord having taken place during the whole joyous interview—the reminiscences of which will ever be pleasing to all who participated in the pleasures of the occasion.



